CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

27

AUGUST 1978

President: Mrs R. Mills. Gen Sec : Mr M. Winterbottom
Min Sec : Mrs B. Singleton. Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.
Newsletter Ed: Mr E. Perkins.

General Meetings are held at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St) at 8 p.m. on the second Friday.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the Club's sessions.

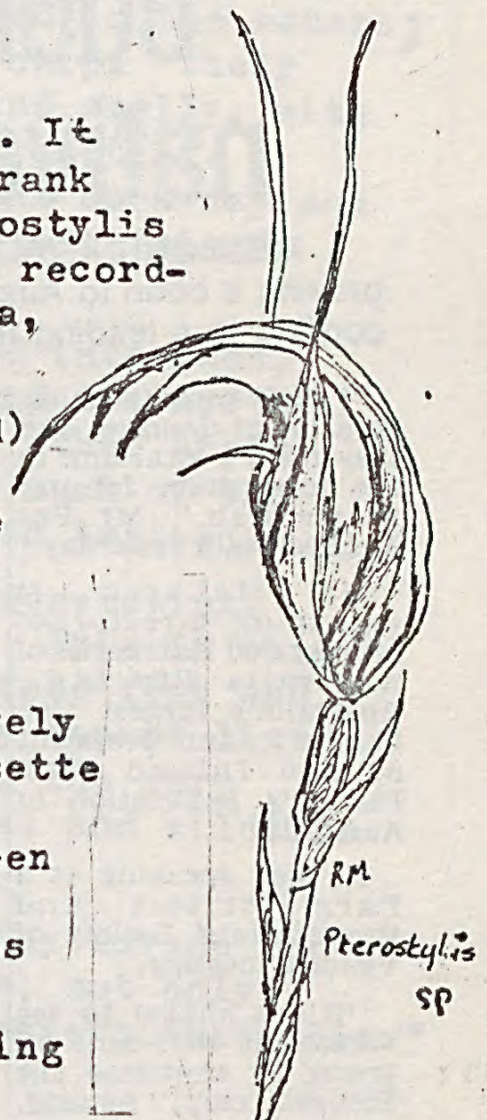
Orchids of the Castlemaine District No 17 of a series by R. Mills

MYSTERY GREENHOOD (Pterostylis sp)

The Greenhood illustrated was photographed at Barkers Creek and was seen by several members. It is similar to the orchid found at Sandon by Frank Blake. Time after time it keyed out to Pterostylis reflexa (Small Autumn Greenhood), but this is recorded only from far eastern Gippsland in Victoria, although it is known in N.S.W.

Growing nearby are P. robusta (Sharp Greenhood) and P. revoluta (Common Greenhood). It is distinctly different to these, but it could be a form of either. This is where careful observation, and often the help of the Herbarium is necessary.

The specimen was 15 cm high with a comparatively large hood, four bracts on the stem and no rosette The petals were mainly white and inclined to flare. The tips of the sepals were reddish-green and the base of the flower was pinkish. Looking into the hood two reddish-brown stripes run down the back. The tongue is longer than either of the other two orchids. It was flowering in May and June.



European carp

TWO CONFLICTING VIEWS

boon to native fish

MELBOURNE (AUP). European carp are proving a boon to Australia's native fish, according to a leading fish farmer.

"I don't know that they do a lot of damage, and they form a vital link in the food chain for our native fish," Mr Pat McLaren said yesterday.

Mr McLaren is managing director of Murray Cod Hatcheries of Australia Pty Ltd., Australia's largest fish hatchery, and president of the Inland Fish Farmer's Association of Australia.

He was speaking at a Farm Writers' and Broadcasters' Society of Victoria meeting.

"It's a shame to see Victorians hell-bent on trying to eradicate the European carp," he said.

His hatchery at Wagga Wagga breeds Murray cod, silver and golden perch and catfish.

His research laboratory is also investigating yabbie breeding.

AN ASSET

Mr McLaren sees the carp as "more of an asset than a menace," because it can be easily farmed at little cost to supply the live food which native fish require.

He feeds his native brood stock with live small carp with the permission of the NSW Government which has not declared the species "NOXIOUS."

Carp can produce up to a million eggs in a spawning compared with about 200,000 produced by most native fish.

Their growth rate is about five times as fast as other fodder fish.

Carp fill a vital position in the food chain as scavengers and compete only slightly with Murray crays and yabbies for foods, according to Mr McLaren.

The huge population explosions where carp moved down waterways "in a huge black cloud' only occurred when the carp were first introduced and will not happen again because the fish had their own food supply, he said.

"The average keen river fisherman now praises carp because he is catching more native fish," Mr McLaren said.

"Carp form a substantial link in their food chain," he said.

Ballarat Courier
22/7/78

EUROPEAN CARP MENACE

The more usual view of European Carp is given in this article by Roy Wheeler, reprinted from a Gould League broadsheet.

"In late March this year, Mrs Wheeler and I were the guests of the Mid-Murray Field Naturalists Trust, and one of the places we stayed at was "Allawah" at Narrung near Piangil and close to the Murray River, the home of Mr and Mrs Alex Fisher. Their lovely home overlooks a big billabong, formerly the bed of the river, and once an ideal wildlife area where as many as twenty seven water birds could be counted in one afternoon living and feeding on the lagoon.

In 1971 the European Carp came in on a Murray River flood, and since that time Mr and Mrs Fisher have watched the lagoon as a haven for water fowl and other wildlife, gradually die. The carp uprooted and killed all the water plants, water ribbons, water lilies and many others, and the birds such as moorhens, coots, grebes, ducks, swans and pelicans gradually left them. Now only cormorants and darters feed in the waters; they are the only native birds feeding on the carp. Their once lovely lagoon is now continuously muddy and smelly, with plenty of carp visible along the edges, and a constant splashing and water disturbance over the general area day and night. Mr and Mrs Fisher have lost their greatest friend this former haven for wildlife.

The European Carp has been illegally introduced into dams, streams and lakes, particularly in Gippsland and the north-west. Flood waters helped the carp to move to other areas, and in a few short years they have spread over much of the State, as well as into New South Wales and South Australia.

Carp have a pig-like eating action, uprooting vegetation. This causes turbidity which cuts out sunlight. This in turn prevents vegetation from growing, and with no food fish and birds just vanish from the waters in which they cannot live and breed. In addition to causing dirty water, the carp ruins fishing, weed growth, recreation potential and wildlife habitats.

This intoduced menace must be stopped before they invade the water storages, particularly those for home use, not only throughout the state, but the whole of south-eastern Australia."

THE COBAW GRANODIORITE by John Bradfield June 1978

The Cobaw Granodiorite is a compound granitic body situated between Kyneton and Tooborac. It is essentially sub-rectangular, with a greater axis of 39 km and a shorter axis of 14 km, covering an area of about 540 sq. km.

The Cobaw Granodiorite intrudes the folded and faulted Cambrian and Ordovician sediments of the Ballarat Trough (West of the Heathcote Greenstone Belt). Around the pluton, various sediments have been metamorphosed to low-intermediate, to high-intermediate contact metamorphic grades.

The 'granodiorite' itself, is built up of four major phases

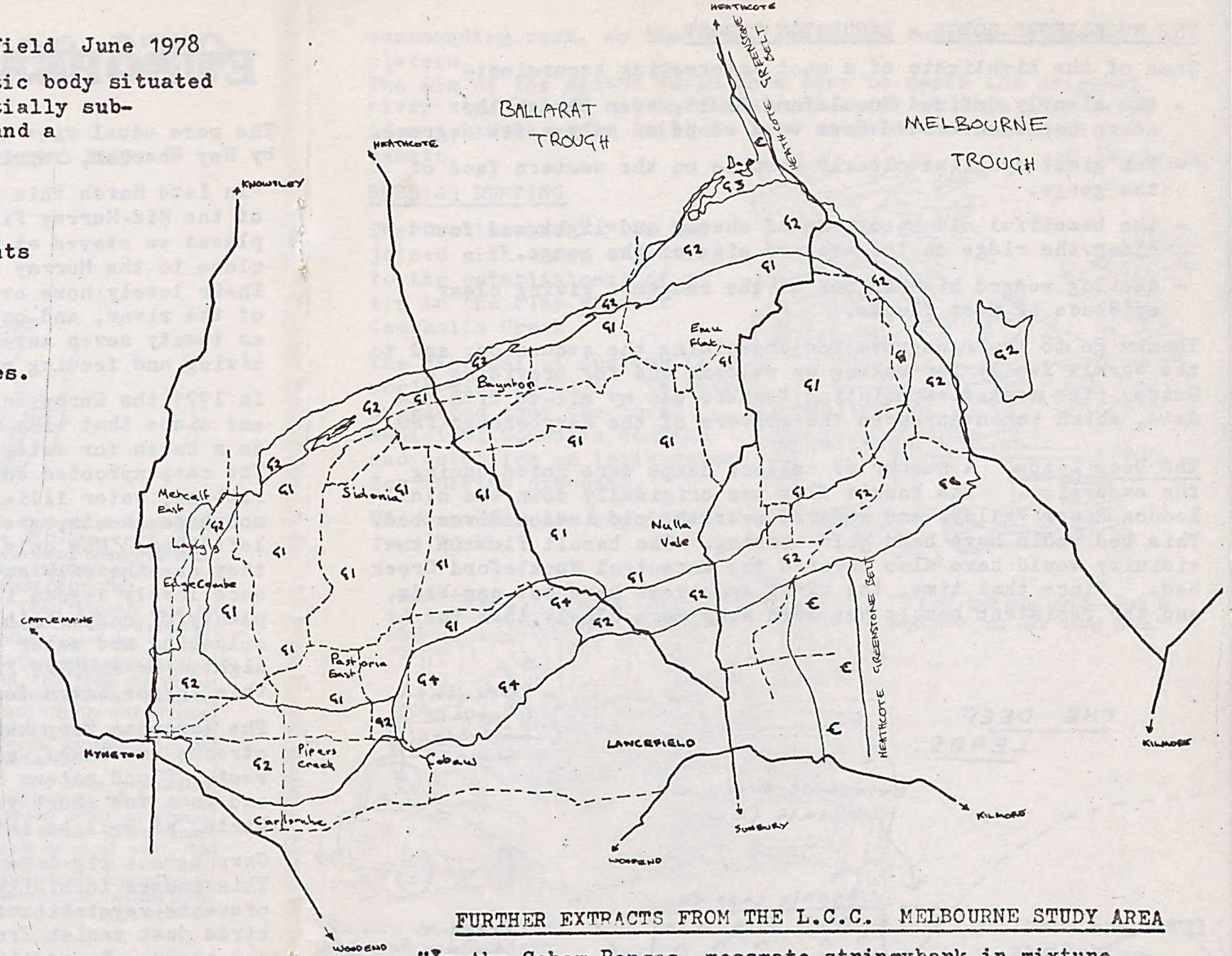
G1 : a central core of massive, medium grained granodiorite.

G2 : outer ring of coarse grained granite

G3 : an irregular dyke of hypersthene porphyrite in the north-east of the pluton.

G4 : a body of porphyritic granodiorite which cuts the outer ring in the south.

Numerous smaller intrusions and dykes are to be seen throughout the pluton.



References

STEWART, A.J. 1961. The petrography, structure and mode of emplacement of the Cobaw Granite, Victoria. Proc. Roy. Soc. Vic. 79 (2)

Melbourne 1:250 000 Geological Sheet. Mines Dept. Vic 1974.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL MELBOURNE REPORT

"Hardwood logging occurs on a limited scale in the Cobaw ranges, along with apiculture. The ranges provide an important scenic element in a predominantly cleared and undulating agricultural landscape" (page 274)

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE L.C.C. MELBOURNE STUDY AREA

"In the Cobaw Ranges, messmate stringybark in mixture with narrow-leaf peppermint and manna gum is widespread. " "Understory species include blackwood, silver wattle, sweet bursaria, and austral bracken. Swamp gum occurs on damp flats" p275

"The Cobaws have a moderate to high capability (for pines)" p 27

Rainfall is between 700 mm and 1000 mm
Height above sea level is over 900 m.

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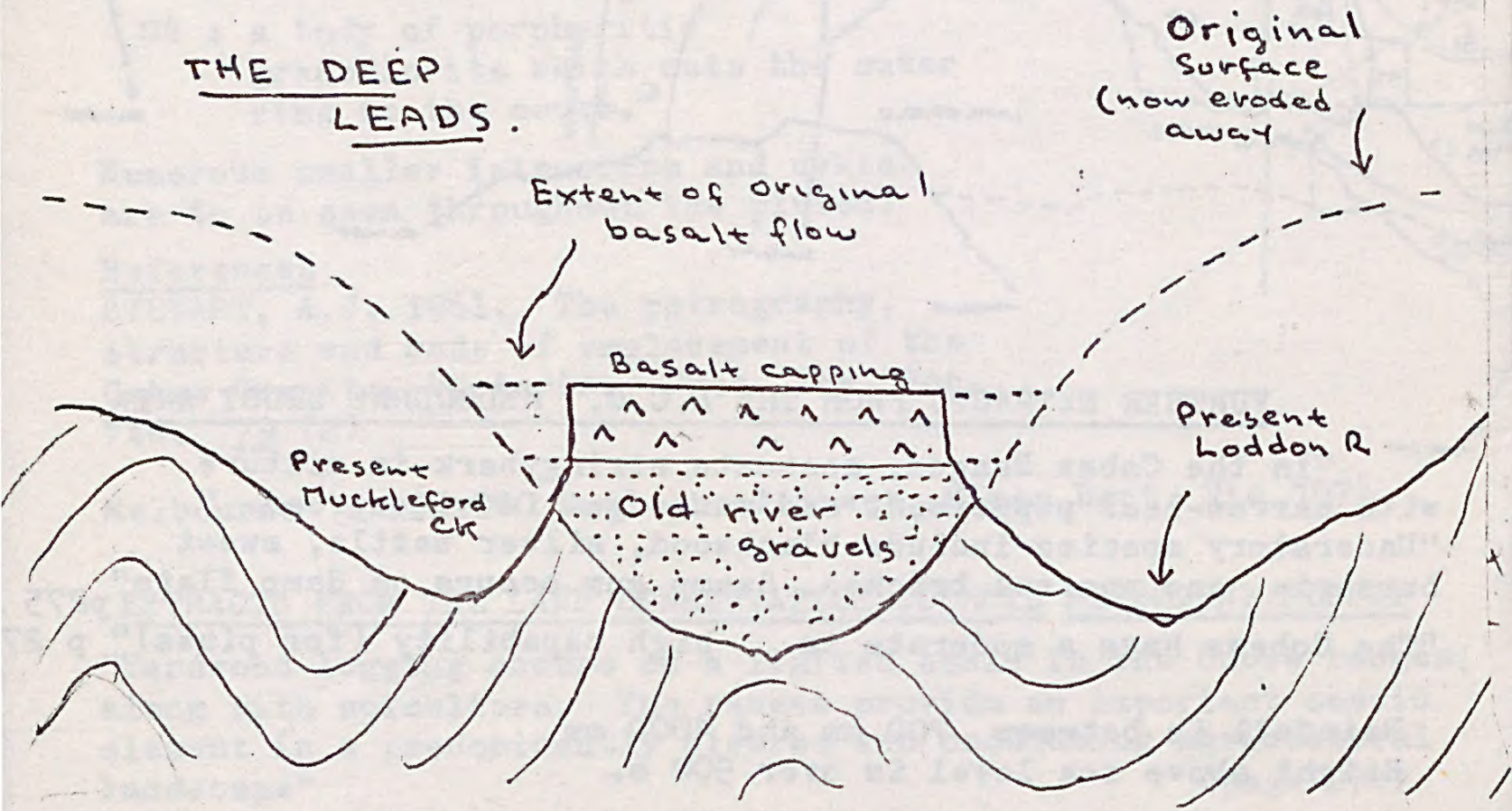
THE MUCKLEFORD GORGE - EXCURSION REPORT

Some of the highlights of a most interesting excursion:-

- the clearly defined Muckleford Fault, even though the scarp has been eroded down to a slope of only a few degrees.
- the giant syncline clearly visible on the western face of the gorge.
- the beautiful old specimens of sheoke and lightwood found along the ridge on the western side of the gorge.
- the log wedged high in one of the redgums, giving clear evidence of past floods.

Thanks go to Mr Bransgrove for organising the excursion, and to the Barkla family for making us welcome and for providing a Guide. The most disappointing feature was my mix-up with the date, which inconvenienced the members of the Maryborough FNC.

The Deep Leads A number of mullock heaps were noted during the excursion. The basalt flow was originally down the old Loddon River Valley, and covered over the old Loddon River bed. This bed would have been gold-bearing. The basalt flow in the vicinity would have also covered the ancestral Muckleford Creek bed. Since that time, the river and creek have cut new beds, and the resistant basalt has worn away more slowly than the



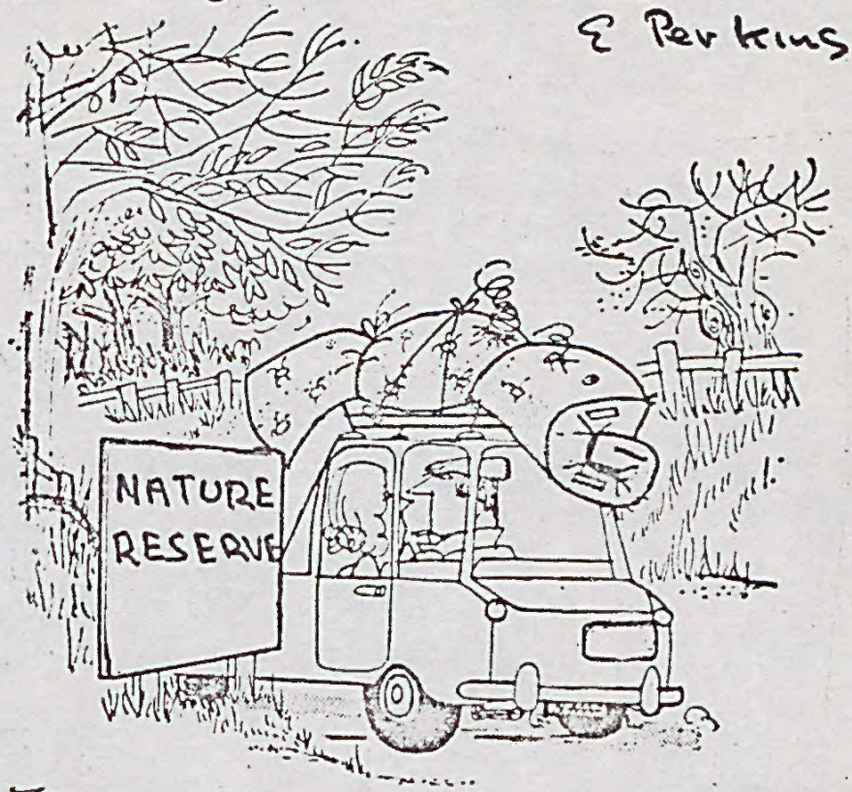
sunrounding rock, so that the basalt now forms an elevated plateau.
The aim of the miners would have been to reach the original river bed. I do not know how successful at this they were; if not, there would still be lots of gold underneath the basalt.

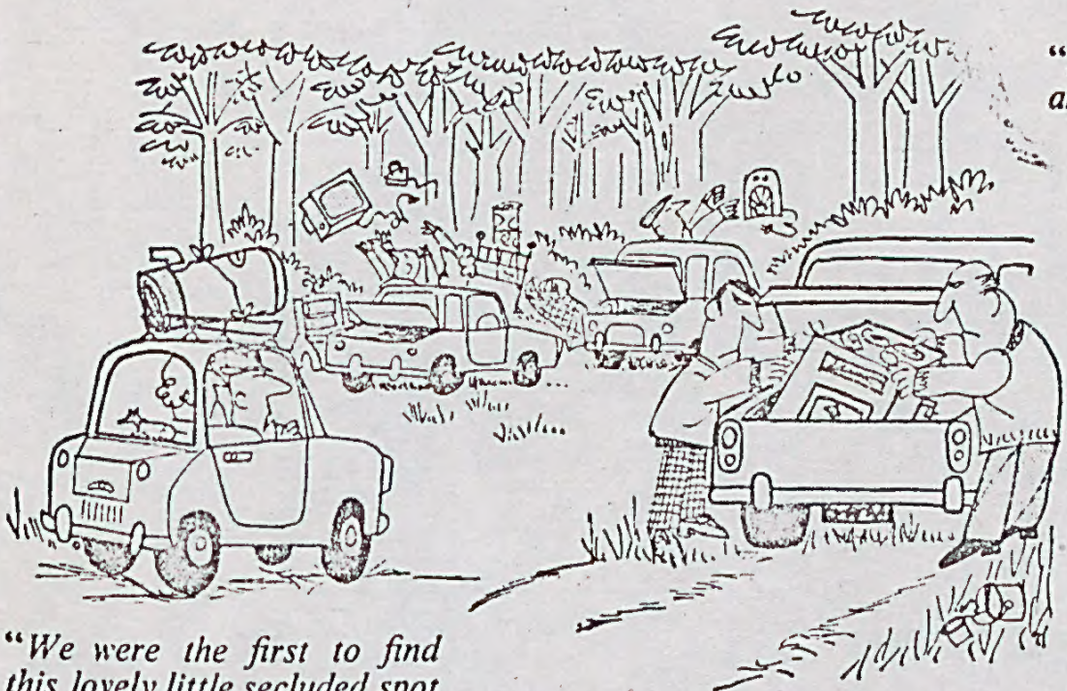
RUBBISH DUMPING

The Castlemaine F.N.C. has joined with those objecting to the establishment of a tip in the clay pits at Campbells Creek.

The disposal of rubbish is a world-wide problem. We have suggested that the local Municipal Councils combine and establish an incinerator for rubbish disposal.

The cartoons are reprinted from Punch.





"It's all right now, Fred—ditch it anywhere you like along here."

"We were the first to find this lovely little secluded spot —now everyone's using it."

These are still available.

BACK ISSUES OF CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

Number 26	Street Trees, Muckleford Fault
Number 24	Purple Diuris, New Plant Names, Red Kangaroo.
Number 23	Beard Greehood, Grey Fantail
Number 22	Dry summer, Basket fungi, Reminiscence(J. Taylor).
Number 21	Ladies Tresses, Pond Life.
Number 19	Hooded caladenia,Elphinstone walk, Ocean Grove report, Brisbane Ranges report, Grampians report.

MEETINGS

August Meeting Fri Aug 11
Film night. We have on order some excellent films from BHP.

Australian Reptiles- Snakes
Australian Reptiles- Lizards
South-west Australia
Bush, Books and Breedens.

September Meeting Frid Sept 8

October Meeting Frid Oct 13

November Meeting Frid Nov 10
Mini-photoflora - this will be a shortened version of one of the biennial photofloras.

December Meeting Frid Dec 8th

EXCURSIONS

Sat Aug 12 Mandurang Forest.
Leave Ed Centre at 1.30.
Leaders: F. Blake & R. Mills.

Sat,Sun Aug26/27 Warrnambool
WVFNCA campout, at the Allansford Hall (turn off the Highway at Garibaldi Lane, turn right)

- Sat 1.00 p.m. A bush walk (to Illidge Sanctuary & Wilton Reserve) or
- Sat 1.00 p.m. A beach walk (to Levy's Point)
- Sat 6.00 p.m. Business meeting
- Sat 8.00 p.m. Barry Searle of Oasis Reptile Park. Subject is "Snakes". Live specimens!
- Sun 9.30 a.m. Tower Hill tour, meet at Tourist Information centre, 600 Raglan St, Warrnambool.

For further information see Mr Winterbottom.

Sun Sept 10 Cobaw Ranges
Leave Ed Centre at 10.30. Leader is E. Perkins. Barbeque lunch is suggested.

Mon Sept 25 Cross country walk
A walk from Taradale due west to Fryerstown.

Sun Oct 15 Lerderderg Gorge
Meet at Blackwood P.O at 11.00 a.m.
Leader is Mr W. Murphy.
Barbeque lunch is suggested.

Sat,Sun Oct 21-22 Snake Valley
WVFNCA campout near Linton.

Sat Oct 28 Taradale. Leave Education Centre at 1.30 p.m.

November A bush walk in the Vaughan area - a sequel to the earlier walk - Leader: R. Bradfield.

Sun Nov 5 Muckleford
Wildflower tour, in association with the Castlemaine Festival

Sat Nov 11 Vaughan/Fryerstown
A bus tour in association with the Castlemaine Festival.
Leaders: R. Bradfield and E. Perkins

Kaweka Tours These will be on Sat 4, 11, Sun 5 and perhaps on Cup day, Nov 7th, as part of the Castlemaine Festival.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday Aug 24th, at 8 p.m. in the Education Centre.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Half-yearly subscriptions now apply. Rates are

Family	$2.50
Single	$1.50
Student/junior	50 ¢